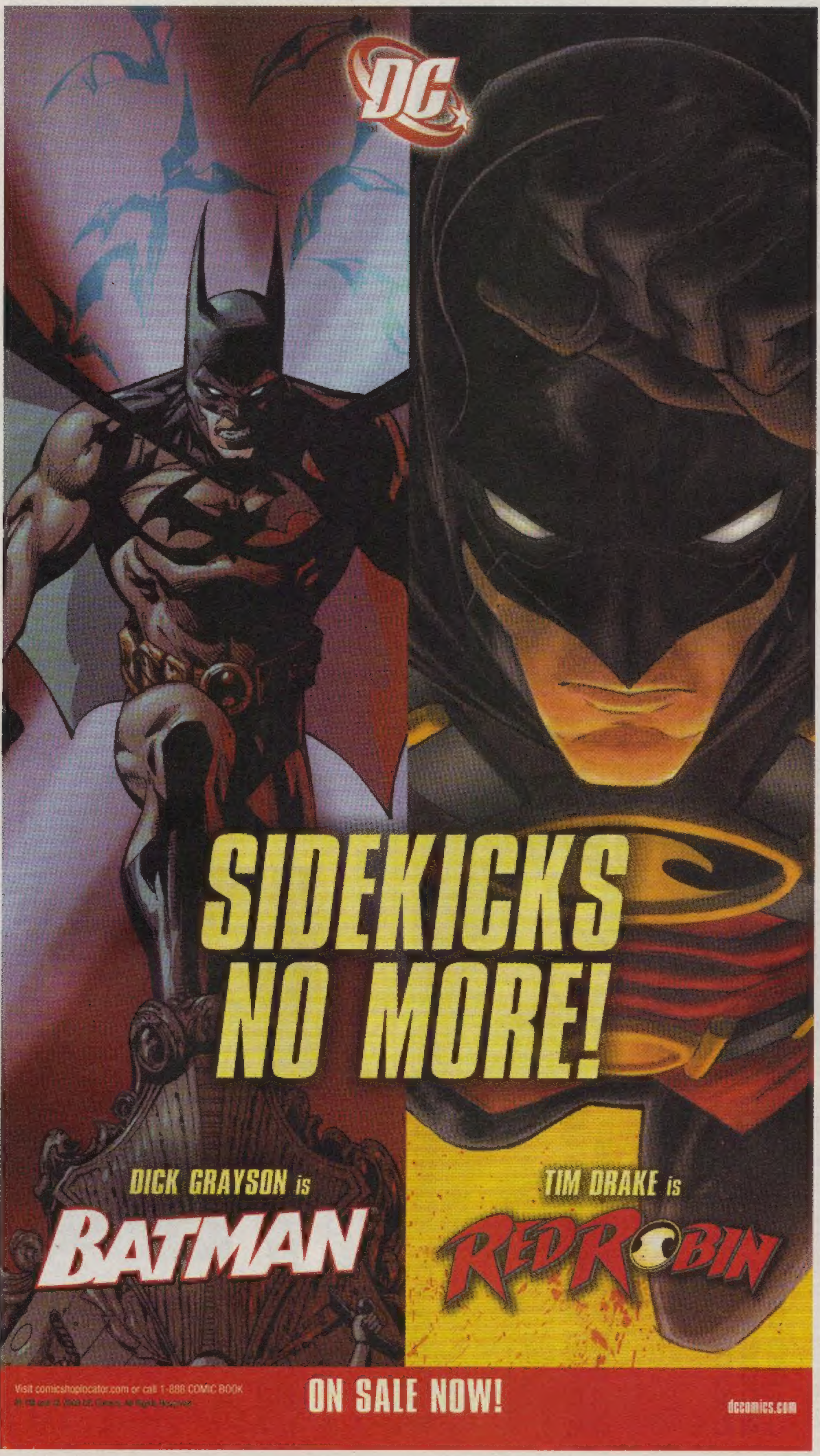
COMIC SHOP NEWS

1149

MS. MARVEL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Marvel's Not-So-Secret War

There's a Marvel war looming... a *Ms.* Marvel war, that is.

And it appears that one of the combatants is Carol Danvers!

But isn't she dead?

Readers of ***Ms. Marvel*** were more than a little upset when writer *Brian Reed* killed off Carol a few months ago—but apparently death remains a recoverable condition in comics!

So is Carol Danvers really returning in "War of the Marvels," the storyline that begins with a prelude in ***Ms. Marvel #41*** before launching in earnest in the pages of ***Ms. Marvel #42***? "It certainly looks that way," Reed said coyly. "But it's not as obvious as it might seem looking at the art."

"Looks that way" seems to be putting it mildly. All the signs are pointing toward something big happening this summer in ***Ms. Marvel***. Not only as already mentioned is the next storyline called "War of the Marvels," but ***Ms. Marvel*** escalates to twice-a-month shipping in July, coinciding with the storyline's launch And as Reed leads up to the big story arc, he's bringing in a lot of prominent guest stars.

"We start involving the Avengers, and the Dark Avengers, and Deadpool and A.I.M., and it all very quickly goes out of control," Reed said. "As to who that other woman is on the cover, that's a few issues away. As we build up to it, there are clues in the next three issues."

"War of the Marvels" is the next phase in a turbulent year for ***Ms. Marvel:*** not only did the title character lose her powers, but she also lost her life at the hands of a villain working for Norman Osborn. Despite Carol's declaration several issues earlier that she intended to kill Osborn, it was she who died from a power overload within the pages of ***Ms. Marvel #37.***

As Osborn's extended his "Dark Reign" throughout most of the Marvel Universe, he also took the role of Ms. Marvel, recasting it with a "heroine" of his choice: Karla Sofen, who was formerly known as Moonstone. Beginning with ***Ms. Marvel #38,*** Karla has operated as the new Ms. Marvel, starring in the title that bears her new superhero name while dishing out her own brand of twisted justice at the behest of Norman Osborn.

The problem is, Sofen isn't quite the altruistic heroine that Carol Danvers was. For instance, in one issue, Sofen operated in her role as Ms. Marvel to save the citizens of New York City, stopping a meteor that a faction of A.I.M. had sent hurling toward the metropolis. However, rather than hurling the meteor back into space, where it would do no harm, "She uses it to hit the guy who threw it," Reed said with a laugh, "and kills a couple of hundred other people in the process. And of course, she flat-out lies to the press about it."

While Sofen has lived up the "dark" aspect of "Dark Reign" in her actions as Ms. Marvel, her job will prove to be more complex than she initially envisioned. "Life for Karla Sofen is not going to be super simple. It's not just putting on the costume and *Boom!* you're Ms. Marvel. It's something you have to earn," Reed said.

"Right now, for the next three issues, it's a prelude to the 'War of the Marvels.' And you'll see her trying to pick up where Carol left off," Reed said. "She's saying, 'You know what? Carol Danvers is an idiot! She never took care of A.I.M. I can do that!' And it's getting her right in the middle of trouble."

In the current ***Ms. Marvel #40,*** in comic shops now, readers will see Spider-Man and Luke Cage get involved, along with everyone's favorite comedic relief, Deadpool. After that, the New Avengers show up in July's ***Ms. Marvel #41,*** a "War of the Marvels" prelude, followed by a slew of Dark Avengers in late July's ***Ms. Marvel #42.***

Where all this leading is anyone's guess, because ***Ms. Marvel*** has been anything but predictable since last year's ***Secret Invasion,*** when Danvers disappeared for a while, only to shock readers with her "kill Norman Osborn" revelation upon her return-- months before anyone understood why.

Now there are more clues being dropped, like the sudden appearance of a former SHIELD agent posing as a reporter who questioned Karla about Carol Danvers' whereabouts. "That was something I put in there for long-time readers who would recognize Agent Sum and realize now that SHIELD's gone, he's out on his own," Reed said, adding that readers "could very potentially" see him again. "He's up to something, and it clearly involves looking for Carol. As to where that goes, we'll find out."

Another clue certain to thrill fans of MODOK involves a group that showed up in a recent issue -- creepy, fetus-like babies whose minds are enhanced with M.O.D.O.C. technology and whose huge heads swell within their jars. "The babies are a big part of an A.I.M. project—and by the end of the issue, you see that they have their hooks in Karla somehow. They're talking to her, and they've convinced her to take them away. And we realize that's part of why she threw the meteor at A.I.M., was to get these baby things away from them."

Readers are also shown an energy entity that is interested in the strange babies -- a ruthless female-shaped being. "The babies a very big part of what's coming up in the next few issues," Reed said. "They're tied in very closely to that weird energy being that we saw out in the desert killing people."

Not only is there a new Ms. Marvel, but there's also a new artist on the series, as *Sana Takeda* comes on board as the book's illustrator beginning with ***Ms. Marvel #40***. Reed is particularly pleased with Takeda's involvement, since her style gives ***Ms. Marvel*** a unique look. "I wasn't sure she was going to work on this last issue because I had already written the script before I knew she was on the book, and I hadn't written anything for her," he said. "And I was thinking, uh oh... will she have to draw something she isn't comfortable doing? And she just knocked it out of the ballpark. And I thought, I'm a fool for doubting *Sana Takeda*. And she's continuing to impress me as we work together."

Until "War of the Marvels" launches in earnest next month, Reed said readers will have to continue looking for clues to what the ***Ms. Marvel*** event really means -- but in the meantime, he hopes they'll at least enjoy all the Marvel costumed characters who are getting involved in the story.

"I asked the editors if I could have this big list of characters, and I was really glad when they said 'yes' to everyone," he said. "It all comes together over the next few issues—and with Deadpool in it, it's even crazier than it could be!"

Ms. Marvel #41, the prelude to "War of the Marvels," is scheduled for July 8th release. The saga continues in ***Ms. Marvel #42,*** on sale July 22nd; ***Ms. Marvel #43,*** on sale August 12th; and ***Ms. Marvel #44,*** on sale August 26th.

by Vaneta Rogers
(with Cliff Biggers)

Spidey's Back— and He's Married!

This issue marks the return of a feature that was a part of ***Comic Shop News*** back in the early 90's: the ***Spider-Man*** newspaper comic strip, produced by *Stan Lee & Larry Lieber* (Stan's brother and a "founding member" of the Silver Age Marvel bullpen.)

Readers who miss the married Peter and Mary Jane will want to add *CSN* to their must-have list, because this comic strip is the only source of new Spidey tales featuring the happily married couple. After experimenting with an unmarried Peter Parker earlier this year, *Stan Lee* and King Features Syndicate restored the marriage in response to numerous reader complaints. (Maybe the newspaper strip is on to something: MTV speculated about the possibility of Peter and MJ marrying in an upcoming movie sequel.)

CSN will run the daily strips in color in each issue For the first few weeks, we'll run extra strips so that we can launch early June's Wolverine storyline from the very beginning; afterwards, *CSN* will feature six strips in each issue. "We will be running the strips nice and big, almost 8" wide, and in full color," *CSN's Ward Batty* said. "*CSN* is printed hot press, like comic books, so the printing and color is very sharp compared to most newspapers, which are cold-press and smudgy."

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News*
in cooperation with Matt Brady and *newsarama.com*

Alex Ross's Next Hot Project

The Human Torch is on his way back.

No, not Johnny Storm. We're talking about Jim Hammond, the *original* Human Torch, who first appeared in 1939's ***Marvel Comics #1***. *Mike Carey & Alex Ross* are co-writing the story, which will also feature covers by Ross.

"Believe it or not, this was a basic series concept intended for the sixtieth anniversary of the character in 1999," Ross told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "It was a completely different shape then and didn't go over quite the way we wanted, so it more or less remained an unfulfilled ambition.

"Ironically now, it just fell into the conversations between Dynamite and Marvel on the ***Avengers/Invaders*** series. That project leading right into a complete revival of Marvel's first hero at the time of his and their seventieth anniversary seemed perfect."

Ross is no stranger to the Human Torch, having dealt with the character in ***Marvels #s 0 & 1*** and in ***Avengers/Invaders***. Ross explained that "I've always been drawn to characters that were the beginnings of the superhero genre. What intrigues me so much about the Torch is how bizarrely unique he is as a creative response to DC's sparking off the superhero wave with the simple everything-in-one lead character concept of Superman... Despite the fact that the more famous Human Torch today is the one who is part of the Fantastic Four, it always seemed a missed opportunity to not have the flagship cover hero who launched *Marvel Comics #1* be both physically active himself today, as well as being a lead feature as he was successfully then."

How did Mike Carey become involved with the series? "Mike is someone I've been hearing about and reading for years. We've never met, but his accomplishments and ambitious writing style were something that definitely attracted all of us. So far we've had a few conversations by phone, but we're exchanged very, very extensive emails..."

The story will be set in the modern-day Marvel Universe, not the Golden Age." We will be crossing over with a great many elements of modern Marvel, and I can guarantee from what Mike has already accomplished in the story thus far, it will seem an appropriate fit," Ross said. "For me, it's about putting all of Marvel's classic toys back on stage in a position that I feel, and hopefully they and the fans feel, these characters deserve."

The Human Torch #1 is slated for September release.

CSNsider

•DC has announced two variant covers for the upcoming *Kevin Smith-Walter Flanagan* series ***Batman: The Widening Gyre:*** a 1-for-25 variant featuring art by *Gene Ha*, and a 1-for-50 variant featuring a pencils-only version of the same piece if *Gene Ha* art. Look for 'em in late August.

•And speaking of variants, DC has also announced the artists for the 1-for-25 variants on ***Blackest Night: Tales of the Corps #s 1-3***. *Dave Gibbons* will supply the art for #1; *Rodolfo Migliari*, for #2; and *Doug Mahnke*, for #3. Look for all three in July.

•Staying with the variant theme, DC has also updated variant cover art credits for ***Green Lantern #s 43 & 44***. *Eddy Barrows* will illustrate #43 (in stores in June), will *Philip Tan* will illustrate #44 (in stores in July).

•September sees the long-awaited release of the indy-created ***Strange Tales MAX #1***, the kickoff book in a three-part series featuring 48 pages of all-new stories by top indy creators in each issue. *Paul Pope, Peter Bagge, Junko Mizuno, James Kochalka, Johnny Ryan, Nick Bertozzi, Tony Millionaire, Nicholas Gurewich*—they're just a few of the creators who'll contribute to this offbeat anthology miniseries. That's right—at long last, *Peter Bagge's* "Incorrigible Hulk" is destined to see print. "The philosophy of the book was to have these creators from 'indy' or 'alternative' or "literary" or 'art' comics come in and do what they do best," editor *John Barber* said. "I think Marvel readers will really dig seeing radically different versions of their favorite characters, and the fans of these cartoonists will get to see the creators work in a milieu they never thought they'd get to see. It's win-win. It's really the best of both worlds."

•***Showcase Presents Super Friends Volume 1 TP*** has been cancelled; DC plans to resolicit the book at a future date.

•*Chris Sprouse* has announced on his blog that he and writer *Peter Hogan* are working on a new Tom Strong miniseries entitled ***Tom Strong: Robots of Doom***, with the approval and encouragement of Tom Strong co-creator *Alan Moore*. Sprouse indicates that the plan calls for ***Tom Strong***-to "live on ***Hellboy***-style as an ongoing series of self-contained miniseries." Look for ***Robots of Doom*** in late fall.

•Fall Out Boy makes the leap from music to comics this September with the release of Image Comics' ***Fall Out Toy Works***, a new series by Fall Out boy vocalist/bassist *Pete Wentz*, designer *Darren Romanelli, Nathan Cabrera, Brett Lewis, & Sam Basri*. Inspired by the music of Fall Out Boy, ***Fall Out Toy Works*** tells the story of a brilliant young robot maker who risks his entire company for his factory's newly produced android named Tiffany as she becomes his greatest passion... and potentially his own destruction. ***Fall Out Toy Works #1*** is slated for early September release.

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

MORNING IN THE BIG CITY...
HEY, TIGER! YOU GONNA LIE IN BED ALL DAY?
I...HAD THE WEIRDEST DREAM.
stanzfanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
I WAS STILL SINGLE--LIVING AT AUNT MAY'S.
WELL, YOU'RE MARRIED NOW, SO UP AND AT 'EM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-25
THAT'S RIGHT, TRUE BELIEVER! IN ANSWER TO YOUR TON OF REQUESTS, PETER IS BACK IN THE PRESENT AGAIN--STILL WEDDED TO MARY JANE!
BUT JUST YOU WAIT--TILL WOLVERINE SHOWS UP!
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JONAH JAMESON'S STILL TRASHING ME IN THE BUGLE...
AND NOW HE'S GOT A TV SHOW, WHICH DOUBLES MY JEOPARDY!
DAILY SPORTS
FORGET HIM, HONEY. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DREAM AGAIN.
IT WAS CRAZY. I DREAMED I WAS STILL SINGLE, LIVING WITH AUNT MAY.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-26
WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU WOKE UP?
C'MERE! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW DISAPPOINTED I WAS!
WELL, I'M OFF TO THE THEATER FOR TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.
I'LL GO WITH YOU, HONEY.
UH-OH. HERE COMES MRS. GRILBY, THE BUSYBODY!
TOO LATE TO AVOID HER!
ELEVATOR
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-27
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU KEEP SUCH LATE HOURS, MR. PARKER?
SHE'S RUNNING TRUE TO FORM!

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #600

Dan Slott, Stan Lee, & Others (W); John Romita Jr., Marcos Martin, & Others (A)
(Marvel MAY090484 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

There's a wedding in the works... but whose is it? Aunt May and JJ Jameson? Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson? Or none of the above? And if nuptials aren't enough of an event, there's also the return of Doctor Octopus, a Spidey tale by *Stan Lee*, and much, much more!

Why Should You Care?

Two big events... 104 pages of all-new (that's right, *no reprints!)* material... A new story by Spidey's co-creator... That's more than enough to make this a must-read for *any* Spidey fan.

BATMAN #688

Judd Winick (W); Mark Bagley & Rob Hunter (A)
(DC MAY090132 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The new Batman would appreciate the opportunity to get up to speed, but it's tough to do when both Two-Face and the Penguin are determined to keep the Dark Knight off his game.

Why Should You Care?

Fans who think of *Mark Bagley* as the Spider-Man artist may have to change their mindset when they see his take on the new Batman!

BATMAN AND ROBIN #2

Grant Morrison (W); Frank Quitely (A)
(DC MAY090130 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The new Batman and Robin face off against the Circus of the Strange—but they soon learn that they may not be quite the team that Batman had hoped for!

Why Should You Care?

It's hard to believe that *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely* could surpass their stellar work on ***All Star Superman***—but they've accomplished that very thing with this must-read series launch!

BLACKEST NIGHT #1 (OF 8)

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert (A)
(DC MAY090106 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The DCU has seen some of its mightiest heroes and villains fall in battle. However, death may prove to be less permanent that previously believed... much to the dismay of Hal Jordan, the Green Lantern Corps, and the living members of the DC Universe!

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis launch the biggest DCU event of the year—and with Johns masterminding it, you know this is a story that will deliver with each and every issue!

BLACKEST NIGHT TALES OF THE CORPS #1, 2, & 3

Geoff Johns & Peter J. Tomasi (W); Rags Morales, Chris Sprouse, Ivan Reis, Doug Mahnke, & Others (A)
(DC MAY090116/18/20, $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn the secrets behind the Lanterns of ***Blackest Night*** in this three-part miniseries. But Lantern Saint Walker, Green Lantern Kilowog, Red Lantern Vice, Orange Lantern Blume, Star Sapphire Carol Ferris... they're all in here, along with the mysterious Indigo, leader of the Indigo Tribe, who makes his debut appearance in this series!

CSN TOP CO

Why Should You Care?

Green Lantern/Blackest Night mastermind *Geoff Johns* and ***Green Lantern Corps*** scribe *Peter Tomasi* join forces for a three-issue weekly series that offers insight into the cast of characters destined to play a major role in ***Blackest Night.***

CREEPY COMICS #1

Neil Kleid, Joe Harris, Dan Braun, & Mike Woods (W); Angelo Torres, Bernie Wrightson, Jason Shawn Alexander, & Eric Powell (A)
(Dark Horse MAY090051 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

The classic Warren Magazine is resurrected as a 48-page quarterly comic—and there's even a classic from Uncle Creepy's dungeon to fill out the package!

Why Should You Care?

Something old, something new: original ***Creepy*** contributors *Angelo Torres* and *Bernie Wrightson* are on hand for the launch, joining such contemporary talents as *Neil Kleid, Joe Harris, Dan Braun, Michael Woods,* and *Jason Shawn Alexander* to create a modern horror anthology that lives up to its pedigree.

DARK X-MEN: BEGINNING #1 & 2

Paul Cornell, James Asmus, & Others (W); Humberto Ramos & Others (A)
(Marvel MAY090442/44, $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the members of the Dark X-Men and learn how they became a part of the team in this limited series that presents three eleven-page stories in each issue.

Why Should You Care?

With Emma Frost, Cloak and Dagger, Daken Weapon X, and the Dark Beast involved, the Dark X-Men have the

DO YOU HAVE A JOB THAT KEEPS YOU OUT LATE?
'SCUSE ME. I'M IN A HURRY. I'LL TAKE THE STAIRS.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-28
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I COULDN'T LET THAT NOSY NEIGHBOR KEEP QUESTIONING ME.
IT'S LUCKY I CAN TAKE THE STAIRS.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-29
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OMICS: JULY

potential to rival the Dark Avengers in their popularity... or should we say *notoriety*?

DEADPOOL: MERC WITH A MOUTH #1

Victor Gischler (W); Bong Dazo (A)
(Marvel MAY090544 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

If the Merc with a mouth isn't annoying enough, just wait 'til you meet the Merc with *two* mouths... his own and the one attached to the severed-but-still-hungry head of the Marvel Zombies Deadpool! And just wait 'til you see the sort of challenges he'll have to face in order to return that head to the Marvel Zombies universe!

Why Should You Care?

Thanks to the Wolverine film, Deadpool's on everyone's radar now... but comic fans have known about his quirky appeal for years. At long last, he's getting his long-overdue time in the spotlight!

FALLEN ANGEL: REBORN #1

Peter David (W); J.K. Woodward (A)
(IDW MAY090919 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Liandra returns to comics... and her first four-part adventure has her teaming up with *Joss Whedon's* Illyria. But what's she doing in Bete Noire, anyway?

Why Should You Care?

Peter David's cult-fave returns... and with a link to *Joss Whedon's* ***Angel*** series kicking off the series, you can bet there are going to be a lot of newcomers paying a visit to Bete Noire this summer...

GREEK STREET #1

Peter Milligan (W); Davide Gianfelice (A)
(Vertigo/DC MAY090234 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Eddy's lived an unpleasant life for his first eighteen years, but he's certain that things will be better if he can just find his mother. So that's what he does... and a few hours later, she's lying dead at his feet.

Why Should You Care?

Peter Milligan returns to Vertigo with this updated reimagining of those classical tragedies you read about in literature class... but they were never quite like this! Think Sophocles meets HBO and you'll have an idea what to expect...

INCREDIBLE HULK #600

Jeph Loeb, Fred Van Lente, & Others (W); Ed McGuinness & Others (A)
(Marvel MAY090499 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Enough is enough—Spidey's decided it's time to find out the truth about the Red Hulk. That may be a bit tougher than it sounds, though...

Why Should You Care?

Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness present an extra-length face-off between two of Marvel's superstars in this landmark issue that relaunches ***Incredible Hulk*** as a second monthly Hulk series.

JUSTICE LEAGUE: CRY FOR JUSTICE #1 (OF 6)

James Robinson (W); Mauro Cascioli (A)
(DC MAY090159 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Determined to end the string of deaths that has plagued their team, Green Lantern, Green Arrow, Supergirl, Atom, Shazam, Congorilla, and Starman decide it's time to bring the villains to justice—and they'll settle for nothing less!

Why Should You Care?

James Robinson, an integral member of the Superman storytelling team, makes his Justice League debut with these powerful six-part tale—and just wait 'til you see the phenomenal art by *Mauro Cascioli*, a superstar in the making!

NOBODY HC

Jeff Lemire (W/A)
(Vertigo/DC MAR090237 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

A stranger arrives in town, wrapped from head to toe in bandages and wearing weird goggles. What's his story? What led to his present state? The townspeople gradually learn the story behind his condition as they accept him into their community... but do his bandages hide something more than scars?

Why Should You Care?

Xeric award winner *Jeff Lemire* makes his Vertigo debut with this powerful, moving, surprise-filled tale that combines the characterization of *Willa Cather* with the magical realism of *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*.

PROJECT SUPERPOWERS CHAPTER TWO #1

Alex Ross & Jim Krueger (W); Edgar Salazar (A)
(Dynamite MAY090773 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The superheroes are back... and they're about to cross paths with their former sidekicks, who no longer share their mentors' viewpoints. And if that's not enough of a problem, some of the most malevolent villains of the Golden Age are back as well, including the Claw.

HAS YOUR HUSBAND ALWAYS HAD A MORBID FEAR OF ELEVATORS?
YES, BUT I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.
READY, HONEY?
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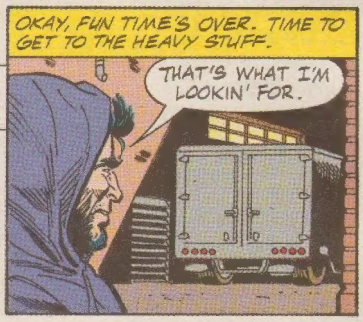

THERE'S A NEW ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK...
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK.
I'M BETTER OFF IN THE WIDE OPEN SPACES.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-1
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Why Should You Care?

Alex Ross & Jim Krueger continue the saga of resurrected Golden Age heroes with an extra-length 48-page comic at the standard 32-page price—*and* they're adding a painted double-page-spread origin of a core character in each issue, beginning with the origin of the 'Devil, painted by *Doug Klauba.*

REBORN #1 (OF 5)

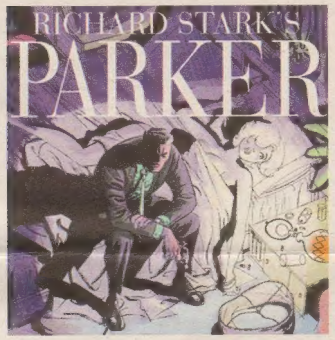
Ed Brubaker (W); Bryan Hitch (A)
(Marvel MAY090412 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Someone's reborn—and while Marvel isn't telling us who it is at press-time, they *are* confirming that grows out of the events of ***Captain America #600.***

Why Should You Care?

Marvel is hinting that this is likely to be the biggest Marvel event of 2009, and they're anticipating major media coverage of ***Captain America #600*** and ***Reborn.*** And no matter *who* it is who's reborn, *Ed Brubaker & Bryan Hitch* are going to be chronicling their exploits—so it's guaranteed to be pretty to look at and fun to read!



RICHARD STARK'S PARKER THE HUNTER HC

Darwyn Cooke (W/A)
(IDW MAY090880 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

Betrayed by the woman he loved and double-crossed by his partner, Parker heads cross country in search of revenge... and to reclaim what was taken from him.

Why Should You Care?

Darwyn Cooke presents the first comics adaptation of *Donald Westlake's* hard-edged crime-fiction hero Parker (written under the *nom de plume* of *Richard Stark).* This 144-page original graphic novel is a true labor of love, written and illustrated by Cooke with the endorsement and encouragement of Westlake himself (who unfortunately passed away late last year).

STAR TREK: SPOCK—REFLECTIONS #1

Scott & David Tipton (W); David Messina (A)
(IDW MAY090905 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Why would a man abandon all he knows to live with a sworn enemy? Find out in this compelling tale that reveals Spock's true motivations for relocating to Romulus.

Why Should You Care?

IDW follows up its must-read ***Star Trek: Countdown*** movie prequel with a new story that answers one of the film's most important unanswered questions.

STAR WARS: INVASION #1 (OF 5)

Tom Taylor (W); Colin Wilson (A)
(Dark Horse MAY090009 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Twenty-five years after the Battle of Yavin, the galaxy faces the deadly threat of the Yuuzhan Vong. The forces of the New Republic and the fledgling New Jedi Order stand ready to confront the invaders... but Luke Skywalker is about to discover that it's not his galaxy any more.

Why Should You Care?

Dark Horse returns to the saga of the original trilogy's stars with this series that focuses on the later life of Luke Skywalker.

WEDNESDAY COMICS #1, 2, 3, & 4 (OF 12)

Brian Azarello, Paul Pope, Neil Gaiman, Walter Simonson, Dave Gibbons, Kurt Busiek, & Others (W); Eduardo Risso, Paul Pope, Michael Allred, Brian STelfreeze, Joe Kubert, Lee Bermejo, Kyle Baker, & others (A)
(DC MAY090122/23/24/25 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What if DC's greatest heroes had been stars of comic *strips* rather than comic *books?* That's the question that editor *Mark Chiarello and* a veritable who's who of comics talent answer in this twelve-part weekly series (produced in an oversized 14" x 20" Sunday-funnies format) that features original full-page installments of Batman, Adam Strange, Metamorpho, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Teen Titans, Superman the Flash, and more in each issue.

Why Should You Care?

When you see how creators such as *Neil Gaiman, Mike Allred, Kyle Baker, Joe Kubert, Paul Pope, Brian Stelfreeze, Dave Gibbons, & Lee Bermejo* rise to the challenge of this new format, you'll wish that this series would never end!

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

28 DAYS LATER #1

(Boom MAY090724 $3.99)

The cult-fave zombie movie comes to comics as an ongoing series, connecting the film ***28 Days Later*** to its sequel ***28 Weeks Later.***

BIG KAHN GN

(NBM MAY090988 $13.95)

Neil Kleid & Nicholas Cinquegrani explore a family's struggle to deal with a lie of almost unprecedented magnitude when they learn that their father, Rabbi David Kahn, was not actually Jewish.

BPRD 1947 #1 (OF 5)

(Dark Horse MAY090044 $2.99)

The B.P.R.D. learns that there are creatures far older-and far more dangerous-than the Nazis' creations, as a lone vampire nobleman ruthlessly hunts the survivors of the Third Reich.

CITIZEN REX #1 (OF 6)

(Dark Horse MAY090060 $3.50)

Gilbert & Mario Hernandez join forces to present a bizarre, sexy view of the future and what it means to be human.

DETHKLOK VS THE GOON

(Dark Horse MAY090053 $3.50)

From *Eric Powell* and the creators of Adult Swim's *Metalocalypse* comes one of the year's strangest crossover tales.

WOLVERINE, THE METAL-TALONED X-MAN...
...MEETS SPIDER-MAN...
...BUT NOT QUITE!
WHY DID MY SPIDER SENSE TINGLE WHEN I WALKED PAST THAT GUY?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-2
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stansfanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
THAT FELLA LOOKED AWFULLY FAMILIAR.
BUT IT WAS PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.
DO I KNOW THAT GUY I JUST PASSED?
AW, C'MON, WOLVERINE--DON'T GET PARANOID.
SNIKT!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-3

DOCTOR WHO #1

(IDW MAY090914 $3.99)

Tony Lee kicks off the time and space-faring doctor's *ongoing* series with the two-part "Silver Scream."

FAHRENHEIT 451 HC

(Hill & Wang MAY090877 $30.00)

Tim Hamilton adapts Ray Bradbury's famous novel of censorship and thought control in a not-too-distant future where fireman are charged with burning books, not saving them.

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #29

(DC MAY090161 $2.99)

A new era begins for the Justice Society of America as writers *Bill Willingham & Matthew Sturges* and artist *Jesus Merino* take over the series just as two new recruits make their debut with the team.

SPIRIT #31

(DC MAY090170 $2.99)

Now this is about as close as you could get to a new *Will Eisner* Spirit tale: this issue features a story by former Eisner assistant and current comics legend *Mike Ploog*.

WITCHFINDER: IN THE SERVICE OF ANGELS #1 (OF 5)

(Dark Horse MAY090045 $2.99)

Mike Mignola & Ben Stenbeck present a tale of one of the Hellboy universe's greatest enigmas: nineteenth-century occult investigator Edward Grey.

Collected Cool:
July's Best Reprint Volumes

CAPTAIN BRITAIN MOORE/DAVIS OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel NOV082438 $99.99)

Make room on your *Alan Moore* shelf for this compilation featuring 680 pages of classic Captain Britain tales by Moore, *Alan Davis*, and others.

LIBERTY MEADOWS SUNDAY STRIPS HC VOL 1

(Image MAY090308 $29.99)

This volume collects over three hundred pages showcasing *Frank Cho's* full-color Sunday comic strip art.

LIFE & TIMES OF MARTHA WASHINGTON IN 21ST CENTURY HC

(Dark Horse MAR090067 $99.95)

Collecting the too-long-out-of-print Martha Washington tales by *Frank Miller & Dave Gibbons*.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS BAT LASH TP

(DC APR090216 $9.99)

The Western rogue returns in this collection of tales by *Nick Cardy, Sergio Aragones, Dennis O'Neil, Len Wein, Mike Sekowsky*, and others from ***Showcase #76, Bat Lash #1-7, DC Special Series #16,*** and ***Jonah Hex #49, 51, & 52.***

TMNT COLLECTED TP VOL 1

(Mirage MAY090981 $29.95)

One of the comics' biggest omissions is remedied with this far-too-long-overdue collection of the first eleven issues of *Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird's* original ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,*** along with the four microseries.

Hot Commodities:
July's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

CATWOMAN VS BATGIRL STATUE

(DC Direct DEC080270 $225.00)

Matt Haley designed this *Andy Bergholtz* sculpture depicting Batgirl confronting Catwoman as the feline fatale attempts to pull a bank heist. Don't miss this striking and bold design that uses the capes as bases to hold each figure in mid-air.

LONE RANGER 75TH ANNIVERSARY STATUE

(Dynamite MAY090792 $299.99)

A archetypal depiction of the Western hero, sculpted and painted by *Tom & Joy Snyder*, based on *John Cassaday's* cover from ***Lone Ranger #1.***

REELART DOC SAVAGE STATUE

(Dark Horse APR090138 $249.00)

Tony Cipriano pays tribute to the art of *Bob Larkin* with this stunning statue depicting the classic *Jim Bama*-redesigned Doc Savage as depicted on the covers of Bantam's ***Doc Savage*** paperbacks from the 1960s through the 1990s.

UNCLE SCROOGE COMIC CHARACTER STATUE #1: UNCLE SCROOGE

(Dark Horse APR090133 $49.95)

Carl Barks' famous creation is spotlighted in Dark Horse's first Disney-inspired syroco-styled statue, packaged in a special litho-printed full-color tin box with a vintage-style pin-back button and booklet, and limited to 950 numbered pieces.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ART OF TOP COW HC

(Top Cow/Image MAY090404 $49.99)

The accomplishments of the Top Cow "Pit" are spotlighted in this full-color 320-page hardcover tracing Top Cow's accomplishments; this volume features art by *Marc Silvestri, Dale Keown, Michael Turner, David Finch, Joe Benitez, Stjepan Sejic, Eric Basaldua*, and others.

JOE KUBERT HOW TO DRAW FROM LIFE SC

(Vanguard MAY091094 $24.95)

One of comics' true masters—and perhaps the field's finest instructor—offers valuable lessons in life drawing, including sections on gesture drawing, contour drawing, the figure in motion, anatomy, lighting, and more.

MARVEL COMICS IN THE 1960S SC

(TwoMorrows MAY091042 $27.95)

Pierre Comtois presents a step-by-step look at how Marvel emerged as one of the most dynamic, slightly irreverent, and downright original contributions to an era when pop-culture emerged as the dominant force in the artistic life of America.

WELL, GUESS IT'S TIME I CHECKED IN AT THE BUGLE, AND--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-4
SKREEEE
THAT TRUCK--IT'LL HIT THAT MOTHER AND CHILD!
I'D BETTER--
GOTCHA, LADY!
YOU--SAVED MY LIFE--AND MY CHILD'S!
YEAH! LUCKY I GOT FAST REFLEXES!
I'LL SAY HE'S FAST!
HE SNATCHED THOSE TWO OUT OF HARM'S WAY BEFORE I COULD SHOOT OUT A WEB-LINE!
NOW I RECOGNIZE HIM!
HE'S WOLVERINE--ONE OF THE X-MEN!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-5
I'D BETTER FOLLOW WOLVERINE TO LEARN WHAT HE'S UP TO.
IF HE'S ABANDONED THE WIDE OPEN SPACES FOR THE BIG APPLE--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-6
I WANT TO KNOW WHY!
starzfanz @ aol.com
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